

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #35

Summer Announcement #32, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 75,000 Chinook salmon through June 30 is well below the historical average of 112,000 for this date.

Based on the current run assessment and in accordance with new regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, subsistence fishing will be closed to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon. The closure has been initiated in the lower river districts and is being similarly implemented in Subdistricts 4-A, 4-B, and 4-C based on migratory timing. This initial closure is being followed with a reduced subsistence fishing period to provide additional conservation for this weak Chinook salmon run.

Because of the large size of Subdistrict 4-A and the time it takes salmon to migrate through this section of river, this management area will be further subdivided. This strategy is intended to allow for more management precision and flexibility when a reduced subsistence fishing schedule is implemented to conserve Chinook salmon. Subdistrict 4-A, will be divided into two separate management areas.

Subdistrict 4-A Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A Lower is currently closed to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon. The 48-hour subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled to begin 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, will be reduced to a 24-hour subsistence salmon fishing period.

Subsistence salmon fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 4. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

Subdistrict 4-A Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A Upper is currently closed to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon. The 48-hour subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled to begin 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, will be reduced to a 24-hour subsistence salmon fishing period.

Subsistence salmon fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 4, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 5. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

By regulation, fisherman in Subdistrict 4-A may use drift gillnets during open subsistence fishing periods on the mainstem of the Yukon River from June 10 to July 14.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C consists of two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

However, effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C will close and remain closed during the next subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon as it passes through this subdistrict.

The department will notify fishermen by July 6 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in District 4.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Fairbanks at 459-7274 or in Emmonak at 949-1320. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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